

## **Lower Mapes Creek Community Meeting**

08/14/12; 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Rainier Beach Public Library

### **Agenda:**

1. Welcome
2. Overview
3. Elements
4. Project, Benefits and Impacts
5. Discussion
6. Next Steps

The meeting was held in the community room at the Rainier Beach Public Library. Following introductions and an overview of the meeting agenda, SPU staff members described the various elements of the project. This was followed by a period of comments, discussion and questions. The notes below are captured here in approximately the same order in which they occurred.

### **1. How will the art piece foster the neighborhood plan goals and how can residents help out with the art installation?**

Artist John Grade is still in the preliminary stages of planning and is considering showcasing all of the underground elements, including the piping project, into his piece.

### **2. Will the art piece extend into the park? Can the bridge aesthetic reference John's art aesthetic, rather than echo the comfort station?**

The artwork will be confined to the Lower Mapes Creek project area into Beer Sheva Park.

### **3. How was the creek location determined? Can the creek flow through the wetlands north of Beer Sheva Park?**

The creek channel has to be designed with enough gradient (slope angle) to pass sediment and water to the lake. Because the project area is very flat, we are limited in terms of what is possible by the elevation of the land, the elevations of other pipes under the ground, and the lake levels. Routing the creek through the wetland would affect the stream's ability to transport sediment and water to the lake.

### **4. Will the odor from the pumping station change?**

It is not anticipated that there will be any noticeable increase in odors, but King County needs to address any such concerns.

### **5. What water does the swale shown on 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S. clean?**

The swale will take stormwater runoff from 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S. and will act as a filter for it.

### **6. Will there be local hiring for the construction portions of the project? The neighborhood needs it.**

SPU plans to put the project out to bid through our normal process. Companies that bid on Seattle construction projects are responsible for all the workers they hire, while the city verifies workers receive the correct wages and benefits. The City of Seattle does require at least 15% of the labor hours be performed by apprentices on public works projects, with

specific goals for minority and women apprentice labor hours. Seattle's "Construction Inclusion Plan" is designed to encourage construction companies to use women and minority-owned firms (SMBEs), but there are no programs specifically for hiring local residents.

**7. There is a sewage seepage problem at 51<sup>st</sup> and Barton that has been going on for 8 months and is impacting homes, businesses and families.**

SPU responded immediately to this concern and is working with the affected parties to resolve the problem. The issue is related to private property side sewers, not the City's systems or services.

**8. There is an international design competition for the 520 floating bridge. Could we use ideas from that for the art project?**

It is up to selected artist John Grade to consider that.

**9. It would be great to have programming and activities for the kids during the summer, sort of like a natural play area like Jefferson Park.**

**10. Since the lake already smells bad, will it be legitimate habitat for baby salmon?**

The lake is fed by the Cedar River, a protected watershed that is one of the cleanest in the country. It is likely that any smell is coming from dead algae or other plant material and natural decaying processes.

**11. Victoria Park in London had several concrete games, like ping pong, which would be neat to incorporate as art pieces and play areas.**

**12. Who will maintain the 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave Walkway after construction?**

SPU is responsible for maintenance of vegetation and the walkway. A more thorough, detailed maintenance plan will be developed in the next stage of design.

**13. Have you looked into partnering with the farm project north of the park? The farm has programs with Rainier Beach High School [and] it could be a strong partnership to link the two entities.**

We definitely are interested in partnership opportunities for education around the project, but SPU resources are very constrained. Still, we hope to connect with existing programs to build educational experiences and look to the schools, parents and volunteers to take advantage of such opportunities.

**14. The farm gate can't be open 24/7 on the north side of the park because of security issues, similar to Prichard Beach.**

**15. A grant proposal for a floating pier was submitted to Parks and the proposal was declined. Parks said that a floating pier is not suitable. Why?**

While that decision was made by the Parks Department, SPU was asked for its opinion on the matter. From a biology standpoint, the pier conflicts with the Lower Mapes Creek Restoration project and the intent to create juvenile Chinook salmon habitat. The primary reason is that overwater structures like piers create strong shading that influence juvenile salmon migration - they won't swim underneath it. The changes in the pathways they swim along and the presence of deep shading can open them up to greater predation. Overall, we would like to see fewer structures on the lake shoreline to help salmon.

**16. Where is the artwork going to be?**

The art piece is still in development, but artist John Grade is interested in developing an artwork along the creek channel in Beer Sheva Park.

**17. One man in attendance said he went through the Corps of Engineers Feasibility Report for this project when issued a couple of years ago. He shared it with his daughter's elementary school (Graham Hill), and both the principal and the teachers were excited about the project for its environmental education and field trip potential.**

**18. There should be construction site field trips so both community members and students can understand the purpose of the project.**

**19. Rainier Beach doesn't have a "center," per se, but rather four "pearls." Henderson and Mapes Creek are "linkages" between the pearls in the community where people travel through to get from place to place.**

**20. What can you do to get the people off the lightrail to explore the community?**

There are some plans to pursue that in the updated Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan.

**21. What was input from the Seattle Design Commission on the project?**

The Design Commission encouraged SPU to look for collaboration and partnership with non-profits and community organizations for this project.

**22. Concerns were raised about organizational silos (SDOT, SPU, King County, Rainier Beach High School). How will all the entities work together?**

The Neighborhood Action Plan includes community wide concepts that foster neighborhood building.

**23. What does the art budget look like?**

Art is budgeted at \$200,000 and comes from a community pool of funding for all 1% for the Arts projects. It is unusual that this project was chosen for the Arts funding because it's primarily a pipeline project; but the restoration of Lower Mapes Creek is its defining characteristic and sets it apart.

**24. Can there be cross-funding between the farm project and Beer Sheva park?**

Not as part of this project.

**25. There could be an organic-looking gazebo as a shelter in the park.**